

House Passes Herger Social Security Lockbox Legislation

For the past three decades, Social Security surplus dollars have been spent by Washington on unrelated government programs. This practice serves to dishonestly inflate federal budget numbers, and unfairly spend Social Security dollars that should be used only for Social Security.

The House of Representatives recently passed, by a 416-12 vote, legislation I introduced that would correct this unfair system. H.R. 1259, "The Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999," stops the budget charade by removing Social Security dollars from federal budget calculations and placing every penny of the Social Security surplus into a lockbox so that it may be protected from raids.

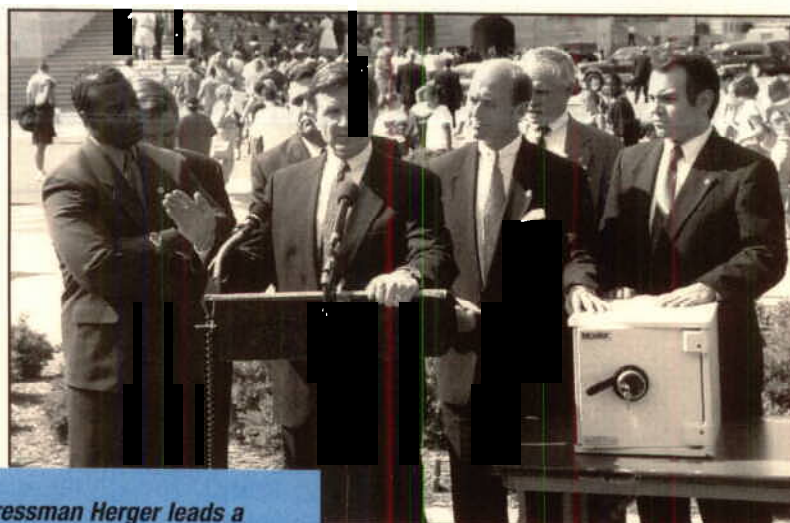
First, this legislation ends the deceptive practice of including Social Security surpluses in overall budget figures. Recent announcements of huge federal budget surpluses only tell half of the story. The reality is Social

Security surpluses represent every penny of the \$111 Billion dollar budget surplus projected for this year. Without Social Security dollars, our federal government is expected to run a \$16 billion deficit this year. H.R. 1259 would — once and for all —

ered in the House or Senate if it spends any of the Social Security surplus and will hold Members of Congress accountable should they vote to raid the Social Security Trust Fund. The measure is designed to ensure that all Social Security surpluses —

\$1.8 Trillion over the next ten years — are saved until a substantial, long-term, solution to the looming Social Security and Medicare crisis is found.

Current and future beneficiaries, after years of hard work, deserve the independence that comes from financial security, and that financial security ought to be something



Congressman Herger leads a Press Conference on his Social Security Lockbox legislation just outside the U.S. Capitol. Also pictured are House Republican Conference Chairman J.C. Watts, House Ways & Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Clay Shaw, Rep. Jerry Weller, and representatives from leading national senior organizations.

separate Social Security from other federal functions so that Social Security can be protected and the dishonest practice of counting Social Security in the overall budget can end.

Second, the legislation prevents any budget resolution or legislation from being consid-

they can count on. Northern Californians deserve to know that Social Security will be there for current and future generations. The passage of this legislation is an important first step toward ensuring that every penny that is taken out of taxpayers' pay checks for Social Security is only used for Social Security. I look forward to working with the Senate and the President to move this legislation further along the legislative process and eventually into law.

Good News for Satellite Viewers



On April 27, Congressman Herger voted for — and the House of Representatives passed — "The Satellite Copyright Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1999" (H.R. 1554), legislation that would preserve access to local ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC network stations for thousands of Northern Californians who receive their television signals via satellite.

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As your member of Congress, I have the honor of recommending young men and women for appointment to our nation's service academies. These fine schools include the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. These institutions provide the unique